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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION, 1958

The first calendar year of the unified program for social tion in the United Church of Christ has been full, rich and oductive. Among the activities sponsored by the CCSA in operation with other boards, conferences, synods and agencies in 1958 are the following:

EETINGS OF THE COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION

January 30-31, Buck Hill Falls Inn, Cresco, Pennsylvania
September 9-11, Cleveland, Ohio

THER MEETINGS

February 4-7, Churchmen's Washington Seminar, in which members of the CCSA Staff cooperated with the National Council of Churches' Washington staff. Attended by 18 E&R and 24 CC.

November 18-21, Cleveland, Ohio, the Fifth World Order Study Conference, in preparation for which CCSA staff contributed to the work of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council. Attended by 10 E&R and 15 CC.

TUDY AND TRAVEL SEMINARS

June 30-August 8, 1958, CCSA European Seminar, Nineteen persons, led by Mr. and Mrs. Galen R. Weaver, visited England, France, Germany, Russia, Finland and Sweden.

August 8-27, 1958, CCSA Mexican Seminar of nineteen persons led by Dr. and Mrs. Huber F. Klemme.

ONFERENCES AND CONSULTATIONS

April 15-17, Washington, D. C. A United Church CCSA-sponsored Washington Seminar.

June 20-27, a conference on the "Churchman as Citizen," arranged through the combined efforts of the CCSA and the E&R and CC laymen's groups, was held at Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

October 7-9, the twelfth "World Order and United Nations Seminar" held in New York City, under the leadership of Herman F. Reissig.

November 18-21, a "Consultation on the Church and the Farm Problem," organized by the CCSA in cooperation with the Town and Country departments of the United Church, was held in Des Moines, Iowa.

Two hundred and sixty members of our churches participated in these four conferences, and the division between E&R and CC was about equal.

SOCIAL ACTION INSTITUTES

Beginning in February and concluding in July, the CCSA conducted five Social Action Institutes, one each in Florida, California, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Massachusetts. With faculties comprised of staff and other leaders, these institutes provided intensive training programs of from three to four days' duration for forty-seven members of the E&R churches, and two hundred and twenty-two Congregationalists. In addition to these full-time registrants, four E&R's and eighty-six CC's attended one or more sessions of the Wisconsin, Ohio, and Massachusetts Institutes.

STAFF FIELD SERVICES

Six hundred and fifty-nine days were spent in field work, in thirty-five states, Washington, D. C., and Puerto Rico. Of these seventy-two were spent conducting one-day area Social Action Institutes, especially in areas zoned for special service under Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian procedures. Usually these institutes were conducted under joint auspices.

In addition to the above, the Council for Christian Social Action has conducted its annual social action Month-of-Emphasis during February, and contributed toward the observance of Race Relations Sunday, World Order Sunday, United Nations Day, and the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It has taken major responsibility for that part of the October 14-16 Midwest Regional program emphasizing social action.

Publications

The principal publication of the CCSA is SOCIAL ACTION, edited by Fern Babcock. The subjects and quantities for 1958 were as follows:

5,500	January, 1958—"The Church and Organized Labor"
12,000	February, 1958—"Christian Concern for the Public Schools"
6,000	March, 1958—"Christians and Government"
10,000	April, 1958—"Christian Perspective on Mass Communication"
8,500	May, 1958—"Christians and U. S. Foreign Policy"
8,500	September, 1958—"Recession: Causes and Cure"
8,500	October, 1958—"Churchman as Citizen"
8,500	November, 1958—"Human Rights: An Appraisal"
8,500	December, 1958—"The Population Explosion"

Reprints of 1957 Issues of SOCIAL ACTION were as follows:

3,000	May, 1957—"Alcohol: A National Problem"
4,000	October, 1957—"Atomic Energy: Peril *and* Promise"
10,000	November, 1957—"Housing without Racial Barriers"
93,000	

A wooden rack, suitable for display of six issues of SOCIAL ACTION, has been produced and is now available free with five subscriptions and enough current issues to fill the rack at a cost of $15.00. The copies for the year would sell for $17.50.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, edited by Dr. Huber F. Klemme, is a news and program service sent free to all pastors, secretaries, chairmen of church, synodical and conference social action committees, and subscribers to SOCIAL ACTION who request it. 14,000 were printed for each of the nine issues and sent with the following enclosures:

January	Race Relations Letter National Council Churches' "Who is My Neighbor?"
February	Travel Seminar Announcements Statements for Study and Action
March	Summer Institute Announcements
April	No enclosures
May	You Can Help Remove Racial Barriers in Housing Reply Order Blank for SOCIAL ACTION, CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
September	Labor Sunday Message World Order Seminar Announcement
October	Statement on Anti-Union—Shop Legislation
November	No enclosures
December	Month of Emphasis Order Blank for Materials Race Relations Sunday Materials Our Decisions in Daily Work

In addition to the two periodicals the CCSA printed and distributed the following:

50,000	*Current and Available,* free (CCSA publication list of 83 titles which were distributed from the offices in Cleveland and New York.)
20,000	*A Manual for Christian Social Action,* 20c each
170,000	*One in Faith and Action,* free
5,500	Reprints from *Christian Community* of "Statements for Study and Action," free
25,000	*Social Resolutions of the General Council,* 1958, 15c each
40,000	*You Can Help Remove Racial Barriers in Housing,* free
9,000	*Statement on Anti-Union—Shop Legislation,* 2c each.
17,000	*Travel Seminars, 1958,* free
2,000	*Fliers for the Southern Christian Social Action Institute,* free
17,000	*Christian Social Action Institutes,* 1958 free
35,000	Fliers: *You Need Social Action,* free
15,000	*On the Use of Staff Members,* free
405,000	

In addition to the above the following materials were purchased from other sources and are available for distribution and use in the churches:

150	*Christian Social Action for Churches and Families,* 35c.
800	*Churches and Juvenile Delinquency,* 50c
388	*The Churches and Alcohol,* 10c
125	*The Modern Samaritan,* 35c
1,100	*What Should the Christian Say to the Nation?* 10c
200	*A Brief Survey of U. S. Foreign Economic Cooperation,* 50c
275	*In Your Hands,* 50c
260	*You, Your Church and Your Job,* 40c
100	*You, too, Can Play Twenty Questions,* 25c
900	*Register Christian Opinion,* 1958, 10c
4,000	*Voting Record,* 10c
9,500	*Church and Economic Life,* free
7,100	*World Order Sunday Message,* free
20,798	

The following program and study packets were used in 1958:

88	*Christian Faith and Freedom,* $1.00
298	*The Churches and Social Welfare,* $1.00
229	*Racial Integration in Churches and Housing,* $1.00
324	*Social Responsibility of Christians in Daily Work,* $1.00
143	*American Responsibility in the Contemporary World,* $1.00
978	*Foreign Aid,* 50c
41	*Background Material for General Council Statements,* $1.00
40	*Middle East,* free
2,141	

THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Almost a million people described as Palestine Arab refugees are living in conditions which the moral sense and the intelligence of mankind must consider intolerable. They are frustrated; they live, for the most part, in idleness; they are bitter. A third of them are in refugee camps. A temporary United Nations Agency (U.N.R.W.A.) with insufficient funds, provides a minimum subsistence.

The time has come for new and resolute action to restore these men, women, and children to normal life.

It is more than ten years since the original group of some 350,000 fled from their homes. They constitute the only refugee group—of the many millions of post-war refugees—for which no large scale rehabilitation has been undertaken.

The year 1960 is the expiration date of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (U.N.R.W.A.).

This refugee problem is a result of the attempt of Jewish refugees to establish a secure homeland in Palestine and of Arab resistance to this attempt. It is indirectly a result of the partitioning of Palestine by the United Nations. The continued existence of the problem helps to keep alive Arab-Jewish hostility. It works against peaceful relations in the Middle East. It could be a contributing cause of war, involving not only the Middle East but also the great powers.

A large sum of money is annually required to feed, clothe, and house people who, in the main, make no contribution to their own livelihood or to the life of their community.

When their rehabilitation is clearly possible, it is morally intolerable to permit so great a multitude to exist, year after year, in a situation destructive of physical and spiritual well-being.

Attempting no detailed plan for resettlement or repatriation, we submit as necessary to a satisfactory solution the following guiding lines:

1. Responsibility for remedial action rests clearly on Israel and the Arab nations and on the United Nations. A principal obligation for leadership and financial aid rests definitely on the United States.

2. The primary objective is not the vindication of either of the principal sides in the Arab-Israel dispute. The life and well-being of the refugees must not be made secondary to political victories or ambitions. The primary objective is reasonably normal living conditions for a million men, women, and children. This can be accomplished without endangering the security or development of any of the peoples of the Middle East.

3. Provision should be made for:
   (a) resettlement in Arab Palestine (The Gaza strip and territory now a part of Jordan)
   (b) resettlement in other Arab countries
   (c) repatriation to Israel
   (d) opportunity for emigration to other countries

In planning resettlement and repatriation, due account should be taken of the exchange of populations that has already taken place.

4. Every Arab refugee should receive adequate compensation for property left behind in Israel. Such compensation should be paid by Israel with financial aid from other countries. Jewish emigrants from Iraq and Egypt, whose property was confiscated, should likewise receive adequate compensation.

5. Return of refugees to Israel should be under conditions which will not endanger Israel's internal or external security or put an unmanageable strain on her economy.

6. Resettlement and repatriation should be accompanied by safeguards against aggressive or retaliatory actions on the part of the Arab nations or Israel. It should also include abolition of economic blockade.

7. The governments of the Arab nations should make available such unused land as is suitable for settlement, and their cooperation in carrying out the resettlement and repatriation is essential.

8. Compensation, resettlement, and repatriation should be in the hands of an International Authority. This Authority should be created by the United Nations.

9. Resettlement, repatriation and other solutions will have to be carried out over a period of several years, thus distributing the cost and the administrative task and allowing time for political and economic adjustments in Israel and in Arab countries of resettlement.

We urge the government of the United States, without delay:

1. To initiate discussions in the United Nations, looking toward the adoption of a plan embodying the above specifications.

2. To provide essential financial support.

3. To present to the Arab nations and to Israel, through its own diplomatic channels, the urgent necessity of consent and cooperation.

4. To give all possible support to regional economic development.

We urge the people of our churches to petition the government of the United States to take thes actions without delay.

The Council for Christian Social Action commends for study and action in the churches, synods, and conferences the statements which follow, and especially the "Call to Christian Action in Society." The Call will come before the General Synod, July 5-9, 1959, as modified in response to this request. We urge the fullest participation in this process and a prompt reporting to the New York office of the Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

For convenience in study and report, the Call has been printed separately and in this form is being mailed with this issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. Additional copies of the Call and forms for reporting action taken may be secured from either the New York or the Cleveland offices of the Council for Christian Social Action at the following rates: One Report Form and 10 copies of the Call free; additional copies, 3 cents each.

UNITED STATES CHINA POLICY

We believe that world order, justice, and peace would, under certain conditions, be better served by the inclusion of the Peoples Republic of China in the United Nations and its recognition by our government than by continuing the present situation. Among the conditions are: a settlement in Korea and international agreements protecting all the people on Taiwan.

The Peoples Republic of China, the government in effective control of mainland China, with its more than 600 million people, is excluded from the United Nations and is not recognized by the government of the United States. In meetings of the United Nations the United States has played a prominent part in opposing repeated attempts to submit the question of the representation of the Peoples Republic of China to discussion and vote by the member nations. The only Chinese government represented in the United Nations and recognized by the United States is the government of the Republic of China whose jurisdiction is limited to Taiwan and some adjacent islands.

This situation involves more than technical diplomatic and political considerations. It is an important component of the whole critical world situation. As Christian citizens, pledged to work for world order, justice, and peace, we must ask ourselves if our country's policy in this area should be continued or changed.

We are aware that the aggressive policy of the Peiping government has not been in accord with acceptable standards of international conduct. Nor can the American people be expected to be indifferent toward internal policies of the regime which deny basic human rights. We take account, also, of the fear that the Communist government of China may, as a result of admission to the United Nations and recognition by the United States, gain some prestige among the free peoples of Asia. We make no claim that such membership and recognition will, of themselves, bring about desirable changes in the international conduct of the Peoples Republic of China.

We take for granted that diplomatic recognition of the Peoples Republic of China will not carry any implication of approval of the regime, any more than approval is implied in United States recognition of a number of other governments.

Among the considerations which seem to us to call for a change in United States policy are the following:

1. All independent nations should, we believe, be represented in the United Nations as members, providing they accept the Charter requirements. The government of the Republic of China, now on Taiwan, cannot represent the views and policies of mainland China. It can hardly be expected that United Nations discussion of disputes in which China is involved will be given consideration by China if the nation may not be heard through its own representative. If, in achieving world order, our main reliance is to be on discussion, persuasion, and adjustment, exposure to criticism and appeal and opportunity for each nation to state its own case in a representative international organization are vitally important.

2. Crucially important negotiations for the control and reduction of arms, for an inspection system to supervise the ending of nuclear weapons testing and for warnings against surprise attack cannot be carried to successful conclusion without the participation of all the great powers, of which China is one.

3. Aside from difficulties caused by specifically communist policies, some Asian governments and many of the people of China may well interpret our policy of exclusion as a contemporary expression of a much older habit of assumed racial and national superiority.

4. We do not believe that the present United States China policy is the best way to promote freedom and democracy in Asia. In the uncommitted countries this policy is widely believed to put too much emphasis on military power and to constitute Western intervention in the domestic affairs of Asian countries. United States influence on behalf of democracy should depend on strong support of non-communist countries, such as India, and on demonstration of our opposition to colonialism, racialism and war.

5. Non-recognition by our government keeps Americans in ignorance of what is going on in China. Chinese Christians are cut off from association with the churches of the United States. We believe, as a matter of general and fundamental policy, in encouraging the greatest possible degree of communication between the world's peoples, however sharp their political and cultural differences. The travel and cultural exchange which the United States encourages in the case of other communist countries is, under present policy, made impossible in the case of China. Permission to United States newspaper and magazine correspondents to report from China should be a first step in establishing communication.

It is our conviction that the changes here recommended do not mean any lessening of vigilance or of concern for the freedom and security of non-communist nations. World peace and justice will not be served by appeasement. But neither are they served by policies which limit our freedom to respond to changing situations and to test new approaches to the settlement of controversies.

The CCSA shared in the production costs of "All the Way Home," a sound motion picture on race and housing; "Small Explosion," a T.V. production in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights; "Alternatives" a black and white sound motion picture on the rights of conscientious objectors.

Projects

The Community Consultants program in race relations among the churches of North Carolina and Virginia continues under the leadership of Miss Dorothy Hampton. The funds for this program will be exhausted in 1959, but the need for such a program, developing understanding and cooperation in the churches, continues. It is earnestly hoped that funds may be found to continue this program for several more years.

The project in a Northern city to encourage church participation in open occupancy housing opportunities is being explored. The first city requesting the project suddenly became engulfed by a local housing need which required priority consideration. The cooperation of other denominations did not yield the funds needed for the project as proposed. It has been necessary to limit the initial work to what can be supported by the United Church of Christ. The amount sought in our churches is $9,000, *not* $9,000,000 as erroneously reported in some newspapers.

During the year the CCSA has cooperated with the boards for lay men, lay women, youth, Christian Education, rural church, and church extension in publications, programs, and conferences. The work of racial relations and agricultural relations is directed by committees representing home mission boards and social action, and supported by grants from several boards.

The CCSA cooperates closely with the five departments of the Division of Christian Life and Work of the National Council of Churches, is represented on their committees, including the Executive Board of the Division and the General Board of the N.C.C. In addition the CCSA supports the programs of the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, the National Civil Liberties Clearing House, the National Religion and Labor Foundation, civic, cultural, racial, international and economic organizations, American Immigration Conference, U. S. Committee for the U.N., National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, and the Consultative Conference on Desegregation.

Evaluation and Prospects

The united program of social action has not only been more diversified and more economical of time, money and effort but it has been more effective than the sum of the separate agencies. There are more churches participating in program for the same travel expenses of staff. There are more and better ideas for the publications, national program, and for the attack upon social problems. Until the synods and conferences are aligned on geographical bases the field work and cooperation of local churches is difficult, but alert synod and conference committees have overcome even these obstacles. Until the Constitution is adopted it is necessary to continue the structures of the two combining agencies, and this means three budgets and financial statements, three boards and meetings, and other complicating procedural questions; but the increased response of our churches has more than compensated for the difficulties as far as the agencies for social action are concerned. The first full year of program unification has been a satisfying experience for those who have participated in it at any point.

The CCSA has plans for strengthening and broadening its services to the churches. As soon as funds permit it hopes to place a new staff member in Washington, D. C. whose duties will be to work with the National Council of Churches, to secure information about national legislation and governmental policies, to conduct programs of education on political life and democratic participation in government, and to represent the boards and agencies in carrying out their policies in relation to Congress, the governmental departments and the Administration. This program will require a budget of approximately $30,000 annually. Since it is highly desirable that one half of this sum be contributed by each of the two constituent groups, implementation of this proposal depends on the addition of $15,000 to the budget of the Commission on Christian Social Action by the Evangelical and Reformed General Synod, and corresponding gifts by the Congregational Christian Churches.

The CCSA plans to emphasize international affairs during 1959-60 beginning with the summer social action institutes and continuing with speaking tours, special study and program materials, area conferences and special seminars for the United Church and in cooperation with the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches. This is a coordinated, interdenominational social action emphasis for July 1, 1959 to June 30, 1960. During the summer of 1959 there will be a study tour to Europe and the Middle East, June 23 to August 1, conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Reissig, and a study tour to Mexico, August 6 to 25, led by Mr. and Mrs. Schlegel. The tour in 1960 will be a World Tour led by Dr. and Mrs. Gibbons.

The world in which we are called to preach Christ in word and deed is one of increasing concentrations of power, rising expectations of human dignity and development, and rapid social change. As Barbara Ward wrote in the Sunday *New York Times,* November 9, 1958, "Perhaps in a stable world the mild politics of inertia would do no positive harm. But our world is one in which one-third of humanity is subjected to the myths and demonologies of communism. It is a world in which the rising flood of population threatens within a few decades to sweep away all the familiar landmarks. Above all, it is a world in which a single miscalculation can turn the globe into a spinning fireball. In such a world, to base politics on the idea of the cozy life is as magical as to try to stem a flood by throwing in a baby." The Christian faith makes no defense of the "cozy life" but calls one and all to the discipline of study and preparation, the fellowship of planning and promoting, the cross-bearing responsibility for action and administration which will translate our prayers for the Kingdom into historical kingdoms which have come on earth. This is not by our power but by the grace of the Father God. All our social action is but preparation for what God would do in our world today.

OUR CHRISTIAN CONCERN FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

As Christian citizens we hold that every child has a right to education directed toward the full development of his own capacities, and toward preparation for responsible participation in the life of his home, church, community and world.

We express our concern at this time because a number of dangers threaten the public school system. Among these are the following:

— pressures to over-emphasize particular aspects of education, such as science and technology, at the expense of the full, rounded development of the person;

— present overcrowding and inadequate provision for rapidly increasing school enrollments;

— the shortage of adequately trained teachers, due in part to such factors as low salaries and lack of public appreciation;

— threats to academic freedom, such as required loyalty oaths and pressures to limit teachers in dealing critically and responsibly with controversial issues;

— pressures to secure public monies for the support of parochial schools or to control public schools for sectarian purposes;

— actions designed to preserve racial segregation by providing public support for private schools;

— widespread apathy of citizens in the face of the above problems.

Recognizing the critical nature of these dangers we affirm our support of the public school system, democratically controlled by the entire community, financed through general taxation, and open to all children without discrimination as to race, creed, or economic status.

As Christians we affirm that the responsibility for the religious education of children belongs to the home and to the church—not to the public school.

The public school should not teach any sectarian religion, permit dissemination of religious propaganda, require attendance at religious observances, or violate the conscience of religious minorities. It does, however, have an important function in recognizing religion as part of our culture and in teaching about religion as an influential force in our society.

We recognize the right of any religious or other group to conduct private schools at its own expense providing these schools meet accepted standards. We oppose gifts to private schools from public funds for construction, maintenance, teachers' salaries or other regular institutional expense. Health and welfare services for all children should be provided through public agencies.

The public school should encourage a maximum of independent thought and creative expression by both teachers and pupils.

We urge that members of our churches help strengthen the public schools by:

1—keeping informed about the needs of the public schools, and studying the issues relating to public education as a basis for intelligent action as citizens and voters;

2—refusing the use of church or other private property for private schools to evade desegregation of public schools;

3—opposing efforts to use the public schools or tax funds to advance sectarian religious aims;

4—supporting school board candidates who can strengthen public education, and themselves, serving as school board members when needed;

5—supporting essential bond issues and public school taxes;

6—seeking to insure adequate remuneration for teachers, full academic freedom, and a wider public appreciation of the teaching profession;

7—being active in Parent-Teacher Associations and other organizations designed to support the public schools;

8—presenting to young people the profession of teaching as a vocation worthy of the best service that a Christian can offer.

We pledge our efforts to strengthen the system of public education for the full development of the capacities of our children and for the enrichment of our common life.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MARCH, 1959

News and Program Service of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ
Ray Gibbons, Director
Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscription, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, $2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

NEW MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Register Christian Opinion, the directory of the members and committees of Congress, is now ready and may be ordered at 10 cents per copy from the Council for Christian Social Action.

Through the courtesy of the Cleveland office of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, members of our churches may secure, on request, a copy of the Department's new pamphlet OASI-33h, entitled *Social Security for Clergymen.* Since there have been changes in the regulations and since clergymen desiring to enroll in the Social Security program must file their waivers before April 15, it is especially important for those not covered to secure this information.

CCSA announces three new packets: *Critical Issues in the Middle East* (50 cents), *U. S. Policy Toward China* (50 cents), and *The Bible and Our Common Life* ($1). The latter contains supplementary material for the textbook by this title, prepared for youth and adult church school classes using the *Pilgrim* and *Church and Home* series.

Copies of this issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY may be secured at 10 cents each or 12 copies for $1 by groups desiring to study the Council statements on China, Palestine Refugees, and Our Christian Concern for Public Education. Copies of the Call for Christian Action in Society may be ordered, 1 to 10 copies free, additional copies at 3 cents each.